COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, *the* *15th of Karkadagam 1103.*
30th of July 1928.

The House met at Half-past Eleven of the Clock, with the Diwan-President in the Chair. All the Members, except Messrs. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan, K. T. Mathew, M. K. Raman and Dr. A. R. Menon, were present.

Swearing in of new Members.

The President (M. R. Ry., P. Damodara Menon Avl., B. A., Ag. Diwan of Cochin), Messrs. Rao Sahib T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar, Rao Bahadur John Kuriyan and K. Ramunni Menon took and subscribed the oath of allegiance.

Opening Statement by the President.

President.—Members of the Cochin Legislative Council,

On behalf of His Highness, our beloved Maharaja, and, may I add, on my personal behalf too, I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the deliberations of our Second Legislative Council. In so doing, I am glad I am privileged to convey to you a gracious message, full of import, full of the mellowed wisdom which comes of experience, from our gracious and patriotic Ruler. Let us hear it in obeisance, and remember it in the discharge of our duty.

Message from His Highness the Maharaja.

" Members of the Legislative Council,

" It is no small pleasure to Me to convey to you My hearty greetings on this occasion, which marks the commencement of the actual deliberations of the new Council. The hopes and expectations I had the opportunity of giving expression to, when the Council was inaugurated, are, I am sure, still fresh in your minds, and I feel it unnecessary to reiterate them here. I am confident that "Co-operation" will ever be your watch-word, and that your labours will continue to be directed towards the promotion of the happiness, contentment and prosperity of all classes of My people, and their peaceful progress in all directions. You have My very best wishes."

In delivering this message, I take the liberty to make a personal reference. Much as I esteem the honour and the privilege of being chosen the medium for the transmission of this

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message, I keenly regret the circumstance which has prevented our permanent Diwan-President from delivering it. I am sure you are one with me in wishing for his speedy recovery and return to this seat which he has so worthily filled.

I realise, in common with you, the significance of His Highness' gracious message. It is a heavy responsibility, and it is mainly the hope, that our deliberations towards the peaceful advancement of His Highness' subjects will, in the true spirit of His Highness' Message, be characterised by mutual trust and good-will, that sustains me.

I am, as you are well aware, but one of yourselves, with this disadvantage, that I have been, except for brief intervals, rather a distant spectator than an actual participator in the life of this Council. I may say, at the very outset, that I shall have for that reason to draw largely on your indulgence, which, I trust, I shall have in abundant measure.

I once again welcome you to the Council.

We shall now proceed with the business.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Sale of Court Fee Stamps.

1. **Mr. V. V. Ananthapadmanabha Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform the House as to the income derived from the sale of court fee stamps for the last 12 years?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Member is referred to the receipts under "Stamps" in the printed budget estimates for the last 12 years.

Mr. V. V. Ananthapadmanabha Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to inform the House as to the income derived from the sale of court fee stamps for the last 12 years ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is not necessary to read out the questions.

President.—If there is any supplementary question, you may put that ; that is enough.

Stamp defalcation in the Excise Superintendent's Office.

2. **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government be pleased to state what has become of the departmental inquiry referred to in question No. 154 of the legislative session of 1103; what is the report of the Superintendent in the matter and what are the orders of the Government?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Final orders have not been passed yet. The matter is under correspondence with the Superintendent of Excise.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—May I know how long this inquiry was pending ?

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